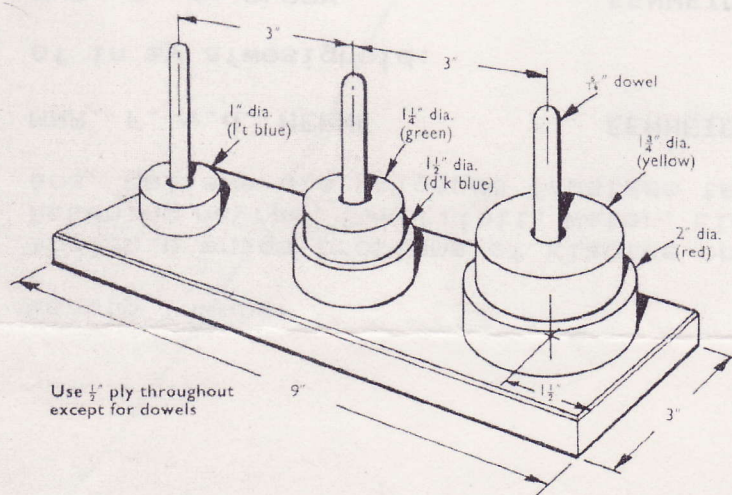
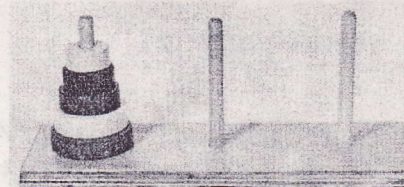


TOWER OF HANOI

BY JOHN DOMAN

BUILDERS of the ancient tower of Hanoi were faced with an unusual problem; they had erected it on the wrong site. So it had to be moved. Unfortunately, because of local superstitions and customs, they could not dismantle it in the reverse order of

building then re-erect it on the new site. It had always to remain partially constructed. It also had to be moved in the shortest possible time. To re-enact this problem a model of the five-storey temple can be made, as shown in the drawing, and to



facilitate the dismantling and re-erection the site—in the form of a baseboard with three pegs—is also shown. The tower has to be moved from one peg to another. But only one storey can be moved at a time and each one must be placed on a peg. A larger storey cannot be placed on a smaller one nor can two hands be used to make the moves. The lowest number of moves possible is 31.

Well, that is the problem and if it is too easy nominate the peg onto which the tower must be transferred, or add another couple of storeys. For very young people, make it a three-storey building. The solution will be given next month.

Incidentally, the storeys can be made square, or parts of a pyramid—and the story can be changed to suit another place!

CORRECTION

In the article "Jigging with dowels" (December/January issue, page 622) we stated that with additional rods 18in. long, "boards as wide as 28in. can be accommodated" by the Record 148 dowelling jig. This is a typographical error and should, of course, read "boards as wide as 18in. can be accommodated".